

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-24, 26 and 27 are pending and stand rejected. This communication amends claims 1 and 13 and adds claim 25.

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3 and 13-15 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 4,875,871 to Booty, Sr. *et al.* (Booty).

In response, claims 1 and 13 have each been amended to recite “a pleated body...*wherein the pleated body and the coupling members define a channel which is longitudinally open along a side of the connector.*” Support for this amendment can be found in the originally filed drawings, particularly in figures 1 and 2 of the drawings. Booty does not expressly or inherently describe such a structure. Booty merely describes a prewired connector having a closed corrugated section made of plastic (column 12, lines 60-68) that is capable of flexing or articulation.

In view of the foregoing, withdrawal of the 35 USC 102(b) rejection is respectfully urged.

Claims 4-12, 16-24, 26 and 27 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Booty in view of U.S. Patent 5,789,064 to Valente *et al.* (Valente).

As argued above, Booty does not describe a connector having a pleated body and coupling members that define a channel which is longitudinally open along a side of the

connector, as called for in each of claims 4-12, 16-24, 26 and 27. Valente fails to cure the deficiencies of Booty as it merely teaches a plastic composition with electromagnetic absorbing and shielding properties. Thus, Booty in view of Valente fail to teach or suggest the subject matter of claims 4-12, 16-24, 26 and 27.

In view of the foregoing, withdrawal of the 35 USC 103(a) rejection using Booty in view of Valente is respectfully urged.

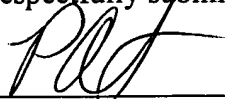
New claim 25 is directed to a connector for a wire raceway. The connector comprises a pleated body having first and second ends, the pleated body defining a channel which is longitudinally open along a side of the connector, the pleated body including a plurality of pleats which fold into and out of one another to allow the connector to be manually bent. Support for this claim can be found in the originally filed drawings, particularly in figures 1 and 2 of the drawings. The prior art of record does not describe, teach or suggest such a connector.

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested as it is believed that all outstanding issues have been addressed herein and, further, that claims 1-27 are in condition for allowance, early notification of which is earnestly solicited. Should there be any questions or matters whose resolution may be advanced by a telephone call, the examiner is cordially invited to contact applicants' undersigned attorney at his number listed below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any additional filing fees required under 37 CFR 1.16 and any patent application processing fees under 37 CFR 1.17,

which are associated with this communication, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account  
No. 50-2061.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Paul A. Schwarz', written over a horizontal line.

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